

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A printing device comprising:
 - a heated roll;
 - a transport mechanism that moves a first side of a printed medium against the heated roll;
 - a heating means that heats a second side of the printed medium;
 - a backing roll that forms a nip with the heated roll;
 - a means for supplying a separate sheet to the nip;
 - a means for transporting the printed medium to the nip such that the printed medium is inverted with respect to the heated roll and the printed medium passes through the nip and the overcoat sheet is fused to the second side of the printed media, wherein the printed medium is heated on the first side prior to introducing the printed medium to the nip.
2. A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the printed medium is heated on the second side prior to introducing the printed medium to the nip.
3. A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the backing roll is heated or otherwise provides energy or heat.
4. A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the second side includes printed material.
5. A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the heating means is combined at least in part with the backing roll.

6. A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the separate sheet is a thermal transfer overcoat sheet, laminate, film sheet, or substantially continuous web.

7. A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the means for transporting includes a duplexer or paper-inverting mechanism.

8. A device for supplying an overcoat sheet to a printed medium comprising:

- a heated roll;

- a backing roll that forms a nip with the heated roll;

- a transport mechanism that moves the printed medium through the nip and a first side of a printed medium against the heated roll; and

- a supply mechanism that provides a separate overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium at or adjacent the nip, the second side of the printed medium including printed ink;

wherein the overcoat sheet is fused or attached to the second side of the printed medium at least in part by the heat provided from the heated roll.

9. A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the printed roll alone supplies sufficient heat to fuse or attach the overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium.

10. A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the backing roll is heated or otherwise provides energy or heat.

11. A device as recited in claim 8, including a guidance mechanism that guides the printed mediums path prior to entering the nip.

13. A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the printed ink associated with the second side of the printed medium is dried and the overcoat sheet is applied together in one heating step by the heated roll and the backing roll.

14. A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the overcoat sheet is a thermal transfer overcoat sheet or a substantially continuous web.

15. A method for applying a sheet to a printed medium comprising:
providing a printed medium including a first side and a second side, an overcoat sheet, a heated roll, and a backing roll, wherein the heated roll and backing roll form a nip through which the printed medium travels;
transporting the printed medium to a nip formed between a heated roll and a backing roll such that the heated roll heats the first side of the printed medium;
providing a separate overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium at or adjacent the nip, the second side of the printed medium including printed ink;
drying the printed ink and attaching or fusing the overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, including the removal of a portion of the overcoat material or sheet.

17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the backing roll is heated or otherwise provides energy or heat.

18. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the printed medium is in a substantially non-heated state prior to thermal contact with the heated roller.